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Flim-Flam Backfires

Appomattox County Involved

(Reprint from Farmville Herald March 9, 1977.)

By: Bid Wall

A Madisonville, Kentucky man was arrested and charged Sunday in Charlotte County with obtaining money under false pretenses.

The arrest came after the man, posing as a needy minister, approached and obtained money from several families in a five county area.

Clarence Theodore Laird, 37, was arrested at Sheldon's Motel near Keysville Sunday, after a man who had fallen victim to the "needy minister routine, recognized the automobile used by the flim-flam artist.

About three weeks ago, a neatly dressed, clean cut man presented himself at the door of a Worsham family as Rev. Clarence Green pastor of a church in Kentucky. He explained that he was on his way home after serving at a revival in North Carolina.

"His first inquires were about our church," said a family member. "He quoted the Bible and had the manner of a preacher."

The con man insisted on speaking with an officer in their small community church. In talking with the church officer, the man immediately indicated his reasons for calling, "Sister I have lost my wallet, and don't have enough money to get back home to my church and my family."

The smooth talking stranger kept asking if the church had a disaster fund which could be used to help him, saying, "I will pay you back as soon as I get home."

The church officer gave the man no answer, indicating he would think about it and let him know. In the meantime, the church officer called Otto S. Overton, Farmville police chief, to check into this man's authenticity.

Chief Overton said he needed more information for his verification and called the Worsham family to ask the preacher some questions.

After getting what information he could, Chief Overton hung up and continued to check into the man. His investigation discovered there was no man by that name nor any church by that name in the Madisonville, Kentucky area.

Chief Overton immediately called the Worsham family, but the stranger had left not ten minutes after Overton hung up the first time. It seems that after Overton's call, the man had questioned the Worsham family as to whom he was. When they said he was a police officer, "he left within ten minutes," said a family member "and that's when I started to think something was wrong."

Before he left though, he had managed to play on the family's Christian conscience and talked them into lending him about $75 until he could repay them.

Oddly enough, about three weeks after this episode (Sunday, March 6) the Worsham man was riding through Keysville, saw the "preacher's automobile and contacted the state police.

Clarence Laird has been charged with the incident and was placed in the Charlotte County jail under $300 cash or $600 property bond for the misdemeanor.

Tuesday, Laird was taken to Appomattox County where the court process was started against him on felony charge. In Appomattox, Larid allegedly used the same pattern to con a Hixsburg area man out of about $100. This is a felony and Laird was being held in Appomattox County jail under $3,000 cash or $5,000 property bond.

These are not the only counties which are reported to have warrants outstanding against him. It has been reported that he operated in Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Prince Edward, and Appomattox Counties.

JR. WOMANS CLUB TO SPONSOR GROCERY SHOPPING SPREE

A GROCERY SHOPPING SPREE to be held in Wilbun's Supermarket Thursday, April 7 at 9:00 p.m. will be sponsored by the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club, Inc. Anyone over 18 years of age may participate by making a $1 donation to any Junior Woman's Club member. The winner of the shopping spree will be selected by a drawing Saturday, April 2 at 3:00 p.m. in front of Wilbun's. Proceeds from the spree will go towards a $200 college scholarship for an Appomattox youth and other Club related projects. Rules for the shopping spree are as follows:

1. Prize is nontransferable. Winner must personally make shopping spree. No one under 18 years of age is eligible. In the event the winner cannot personally participate, another winner will be determined by an additional drawing.

2. Shopping spree will be timed by a stopwatch and limited to 3 minutes.

3. Time will be given to the winner evey minute and the last 30 seconds.

4. Forty dollars ($40) limit on meat items and all items associated with the meat department (fresh and frozen poultry, seafood, beef, pork, etc.).

5. Only two (2) of any items, regardless of brand (coffee, sugar, corn, etc.).

6. Only basic grocery items are allowed:

a. No alcoholic beverages and tobacco

b. No hard goods - clothing, shoes, toys, plants, etc.

7. Half case of full case displays may not be carried to checkout counter. Individual items only.

No shopping cart can be used. You can make as many trips back to cashier as time permits.

9. Winner must reach the checkout counter with items within 3 minute limit or lose the content of his/her arms.

10. Aside from actual winner, only WILBUN'S SUPERMARKET Personnel and other authorized persons will be permitted in the shopping area during the spree.

11. Junior Woman's Club members and immediate families are not eligible to win.

12. WILBUN'S SUPERMARKET will neither curtail nor increase its normal, everyday inventory in any respect during the shopping spree.

13. Drawing SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1977, AT 3:00 P.M. AT WILBUN'S SUPERMARKET.

SPREE to be held THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1977, AT 9:00 P.M. AT WILBUN'S SUPERMARKET.

14. Neither the APPOMATTOX JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB, INC., nor WILBUN'S SUPERMARKET will be responsible for injuries or loss of personal property during the shopping spree.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

BEYOND THE FATTED CALF

Lesson for March 20, 1977

Background Scripture: Luke 15
Devotional Reading: Psalms 103:11-14

The older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son was spiritually nearsighted: he was unable to look beyond the fatted calf — a very limited horizon indeed!

Of course, the same was true of the younger brother, at least in the beginning. The story opens as we see a willful young man who decides that he has had enough of the confinements of home-life and family. What he wants is "what is coming to him," his share of the family capital. As he looked over his father's flocks he knew that a certain portion of these animals were his by right of anticipated inheritance. But he didn't want to be a shepherd. Instead he wanted to cash in his share and take it to some "far country" where the action was.

Rev. Althouse

"But he was angry"

We all know what happens next in the story: how the prodigal spends his inheritance in the wild pursuits of the "far country," how, reduced to poverty, he scratches out a bare existance performing a task no sane Jew would accept: feeding and tending the pigs! We know too that at last he "comes to himself," realizes what he's done and decides to return home, even though he has forfeited his status as a son. We know too that the father has been scanning the road and, seeing the returning prodigal, hurries down the road to greet him.

Many of us tend to drop the story at that point. But there is an important sequel or coda to the story that we must not miss. In the midst of the joyous celebration we see the older brother return wearily from the fields. Hearing the celebration and seeing the bright lights, he learns that his prodigal brother has returned and his grateful father has declared a banquet.

The older brother does not join in the celebration. No, he is "angry," very angry. And can't we understand how he feels? After all, he didn't run away to a far country and demand his share of the inheritance. He stayed on and worked faithfully for his father — yes, even having to pick up some of his brother's work in his absence. He did all the things a dutiful son is supposed to do, but there was never any celebration for him.

"These many years..."

His problem is that he cannot see beyond the fatted calf on the banquet table. Both had wanted what they thought was theirs by right, although they pursued it in different ways. The younger brother had learned that there is more to life than one's share of "what is coming to you." The older brother by his words and actions reveals that he still does not understand that. In other words, it does not appear that the older brother remained and loyally served his father because he loved him, but because he had his eye on the "fatted calf."

Some of us are the "prodigal son" and some of us are the "elder brother." But both of us must look beyond the "fatted calf."

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

The Pastor Speaks

As we grow older memory plays tricks on our past. This is called nostolgia. They say "nostalgia is like a grammer lesson. You find the present tense and the past perfect." Age is a great filter, it filters out the bad of by gone days and leaves us only with the good things to remember. The nostalgia "kick" of the last years or so has even caught on with our youth as the popularity of "The Waltons" and other programs have shown. So to quote from an unknown source, "God gives us our memories so that we might have roses in December." Paul even reminisces as he writes to the church as Thessalonica, will we leave memories of our lives like these:

"Remembring without ceasing your works of Faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God our Father." I Thess. 1:3

cookie, biscuits, milk

Wed., Mar. 23 - Ravioli, green peas, tossed salad, diced pears, rolls, butter, milk.

Thurs., Mar. 24 - 6th grade menu - Hot dogs w/mustard, onions, chili, backeye peas, french fries, strawberry short cake, milk

Fri., Mar. 25 - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bananas, rolls, milk

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

PAMPLIN ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA MENU

Mon., Mar. 21 - Beef w/gravy, whipped potatoes, turnip greens, rolls, butter, milk.

Tues., Mar. 22 - Spagetti, green beans, orange juice,

A.A. meets each Tuesday at 8 p.m. IN ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

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UVB To Sponsor "Up With People"

UNITED VIRGINIA BANK/ First National will sponsor two 2 hour preformances by the ditternational musical spectacular, UP WITH PEOPLE, on March 22 and 23 at E. C. Glass Auditorium. Tickets are $3.50 for adults and $2.50 for students and are available at all UVB offices in Lynchburg. Profit after expenses will go to the Salvation Army Building Fund.

In addition, free 45 minute assembly shows will be presented on Monday, March 21, for students at Amherst High School and Appomattox High School in the respective auditoriums.

Garry Moore, a former Amherst High student, is a member of the Up With People cast which will be coming to Lynchburg on Sunday, March 20. Interviews are conducted following the main performances for students who might be interested in joining Up With People. Moore was selected following the Up With People show at E. C. Glass in March, 1976.

Up With People is an independent, nonprofit, educational corporation known around the world through the international casts of the Up With People show. Within the structure of these musical productions, produced and staged solely by Up With People, the company seeks to provide young men and women with a unique and effective educational experience.

The Up With People program through which college credits are available from the University of Arizona, is designed to establish through their outreach in the United States and around the world a creative framework for communications and interaction between people of varied backgrounds and across all barriers, ages, classes, races, nationality or political view; to develop in young men and women initiative, responsibility, integrity, flexibility, decision-making skills, and a gloval perspective; and to develop new approaches to education combining academics and experience.

Four hundred sixty young men and women 17 to 25 years old, currently travel in five international casts of Up With People. Since its inception in 1965, 4,100 others have participated and approximately 500 students from the U. S. and abroad apply each month.

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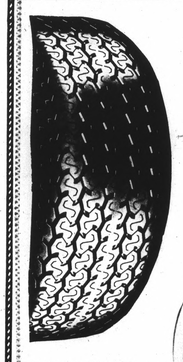

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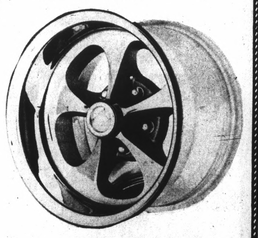

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